

# The Hawaiian Star,

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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER.  
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## Henry James Classified

lies upon, as most efficacious in his own case at least, the reading of a certain kind of books.

The kind, he says, should not be too interesting nor too dull, lest it rouse the attention instead of soothing it, or produce that yawning weariness so familiar to those who would sleep but cannot. It should appeal to intellectual curiosity so gently that there is no burning desire to reach the end of the story, and yet strongly enough to carry the reader along without boredom.

And he finally settles on that very famous book, Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy," as the best he has been able to find to go to sleep on. With its vast stores of recondite learning, its wit, humor, and paradox, old Burton's book interests the scholarly mind. And yet, with all its formality of plan rigidly logical, it is a book which need not be read consecutively. To the desultory reader, such as a man trying to sleep should be, it is readable either forward or backward, or both ways from the middle.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean in touching on the much exploited work of Henry James, says in pleasant way: It gives us great pleasure to suggest a modern addition to a class of literature in which "The Anatomy of Melancholy," upon the eminent authority of Dr. Holmes, corroborated by personal experience, is easily first. It is the article entitled "Boston," in the current North American Review, by Mr. Henry James. As is well known, Mr. James has for years cultivated the detached habit of mind. He has set himself simply to observe and record, with the utmost nicety of expression, without caring at all whether he convinces. He boasts that his only literary gospel is that of the exquisite and inevitable word.

As a result those who hold that an author should really have something to say as well as study how to say it, and that no amount of skill in delivery can make up for the lack of a positive message to deliver, have found the writings of Mr. James increasingly dull. In the present specimen he appears to be absolutely lost in the mazes of the dictionary, with no way out. But as he evidently does not care whether he ever gets out, and is content to wander on and on forever, and as he wanders deftly and gracefully, there is a kind of interest in his divagations. One always hopes, in beginning one of his long sentences, that when the end is reached a meaning will appear. And if not then, perhaps in the next sentence, or the next.

The gentle curiosity thus aroused, but never overstimulated, is conducive to slumber. In fact, it has been found impossible, by several persons upon whom the experiment has been tried, to stay awake through more than a page of Mr. James' impressions of Boston, even amid the clamors of down-town Chicago and of a metropolitan newspaper office.

As there are thirty-three pages of Mr. James' impressions, it is fair to assume that there is at least a comfortable nap, if not a whole night's sleep, in every page. Therefore it is with great pleasure that we accord to Mr. James' latest flow of language a place in a small but select class of literature at whose head stands "The Anatomy of Melancholy," and recommend its perusal to the sufferer from insomnia.

## Republican Free Trade Sentiment

There has always been an element of the Free Traders in America who believed that free trade would eventually come through the Republican party. For a good many years prior to the outbreak of the Civil War there had been a general tendency, most strongly marked in the Democratic party, but manifested in all parties toward lower tariffs. Undoubtedly the Cobden movement in Great Britain had had its influence. But with the undreamed of fiscal needs which the war brought about, tariffs, higher and still higher, were imposed as a means of raising revenue. The issues of the war were paramount, and the questions of tariff were forgotten.

Following the war the vital issues and the bitternesses growing out of reconstruction absorbed attention to the exclusion of all other issues, for a time. But as early as 1870 there began to be quite a formidable movement within the Republican party in favor of lowered tariffs looking to free trade. Other issues were too dominant at that time, however, and war-born passions were too strong. The Democratic party in 1872, might have raised the issue and with success, but for the more stirring questions which brought about the submergence of that party in the "Liberal Republican" movement which nominated Greeley for the Presidency. For the Liberal Republican party to have taken up the issue of lower tariffs, with Horace Greeley, a life-long protectionist as its candidate, would have been incongruous, and the issue slumbered. In 1876, Samuel J. Tilden secured the adoption of a plank in the platform on which he ran for the Presidency, pledging the Democratic party to tariff reform, and there is little doubt but that this was one of the important elements that contributed so largely to Tilden's wonderful campaign and the vote that almost made him President. But the Democratic party in 1880 and in 1884 failed to follow up the issue with a united and vigorous front, and the thousands of freetraders in the Republican party who never bowed the knee to the doctrine of protection saw more hope in a party that was honestly wrong, as they believed the Republican party was on this issue, than in one that was only half-heartedly and irresolutely right as they believed the Democratic party was, on the question. In the campaigns of 1888 and 1892, the Democratic party squarely breasted the issue, and though successful in 1892, its performances were not equal to its promises.

But during all this period, when the doctrine of protection was most rampant in the Republican party, when in the councils of the party free trade or any hint of it was anathema, there has always remained a remnant both of men and newspapers in the Republican party who did not forswear their faith. Like the converts to Christianity in Japan left by the Jesuit missionaries when the latter were expelled, who were found after nearly two centuries to have kept the faith, though denied the sacraments, they remained true to the principles they avowed. Prominent among such newspapers are the Chicago Tribune and the St. Paul Dispatch. Since the Spanish war there has been a recrudescence of lower tariff and free trade sentiment in the Republican party. President McKinley gave countenance to it in some of the speeches he made shortly before his death, though his death undoubtedly retarded the movement.

Of late the old faith in the Republican party as the party through which shall ultimately come free trade, is flaming up again. The stand-patters, and the extreme protectionists, still undoubtedly control the party organization, but tariff reformers and free traders air their views with more confidence than they have for over two decades, while the dread of political or party consequences seems almost entirely absent. There is almost a tone of exultation, a note of pro-

Oliver Wendell Holmes, somewhere in one of what he called his "medicated" essays, discusses sleeplessness and its remedies. He rejects on sanitary grounds the alcoholic "nightcap," and after considering several others finally settles upon, as most efficacious in his own case at least, the reading of a certain kind of books.

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phicy in the following from the St. Paul Dispatch, a Republican paper in good standing, and of large influence.

"In something Mr. Williams (John Sharp Williams, Democratic Leader in the House), said we think we can see why the tariff has this surprising vitality that makes it young and vigorous under the load of centuries. 'You know,' he said, addressing the Republican side, 'that if the Democrats could make an ideal Democratic tariff it would include upon the list a tax on nearly everything consumed. The Democratic idea of raising revenue by tariff is the idea of taxing American consumers as nearly as possible equally and uniformly in proportion to the strength of the back of the taxpayer to bear the burden of the tax.'

"Here we have, as we think, the reason why this form of raising revenue is always attended with agitation, opposition, if not to itself, then to schedules and rates, and why it never is and never can be settled. It taxes what men consume and as men consume unequally and without relation to income or accumulation of property, it is essentially unequal and never proportioned to the strength of the back of the taxpayer. A man of large wealth and no family may pay less tax than one of small property and large family. The injustice of this is so manifest, the sense of injustice it arouses so justified, that it is no wonder men never rest contented under it.

"Some day, when the Republican party shall have shaken off the stand-patters, after it shall have made them 'get their feet out of the trough,' and addresses itself to a serious consideration, we doubt not it will find its course outlined for it by Senator John Sherman in his speech on the tariff in 1872. He then said:

"A few years of further experience will convince the whole body of our people that a system of national taxes which rests the whole burden of taxation on consumption and not entirely on property or income is intrinsically unjust. It will not do to say that each person consumes in proportion to his means. That is not true. Every one must see that the consumption of the rich does not bear the same relation to the consumption of the poor that the income of the one does to the income of the other."

"And when the Republican party settles taxation on the lines of that equal-

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ent Republican senator, it will be finally settled, and not until then."

Mark Twain gives as a reason why he does not take kindly to the suggestion that he be selected to succeed Chauncey M. Depew or Thomas Platt as senator from New York, that to "make good" as a senator, one must be in love with the job and be industrious.

The appropriation for legislative expenses for Hawaii by Congress leaving out items for interpreting and translating, does not put an end to those forms of graft. There is nothing to prevent the legislature of Hawaii from employing interpreters and paying them as it sees fit.

The Panama Canal controversy ought to live in history as the world's greatest battle of experts. After all these years, the ablest engineers of all nations are as divided as ever on the question of what sort of a canal should be constructed.

## FACTS AND FANCIES.

As an example of an office seeking the man there could be nothing finer than the spectacle of the Supreme Bench in quest of Secretary Taft.

No thoughtful footpad will soon again essay the robbery of a newspaper man. There really is not much in it but the penalty.

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